

Red Tail Flyer

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May 6, 2005

Eye in the sky protects ground forces

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Soaring through the air looking for prey, the Predator is one aircraft ground forces wouldn't want to do without.

With its large infrared eye, it surveys the land and relays intelligence to servicemembers in the field.

"The Predator is the greatest reconnaissance tool the Air Force has to offer," said Senior Airman Kitsana Dounglomchan, 46th Aircraft Maintenance Unit communications journeyman. "Never before has an aircraft provided intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and an additional strike capability if needed."

Balad's Predator crew is deployed from Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev., and their mission is to take off, land and maintain the Predator.

"A typical flight involves taking off and flying to a target location where we'll observe enemy activity. Flights can sometimes last for 20 hours," said Capt. Ryan Simpson, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Predator pilot. "Flying it is similar to flying a real airplane except you don't hear the engine or feel the plane turn, and you can't see much outside."

Balad Predator pilots take off



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Airmen taxi a Predator aircraft. The unmanned aerial vehicle provides intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike capability.

and land the aircraft from inside a ground control station. The pilots fly the aircraft to a secure holding location and connect to pilots at Nellis AFB, Nev., through a satellite link. The pilots at Nellis then fly the mission. Once the mission is complete, the pilots at Nellis give the signal back to Balad pilots who then land the aircraft.

"All predator pilots were previously flying other military aircraft," Captain Simpson said. "Flying the predator is different because it goes slower than jets, but all the principles of flight

and fighting tactics are the same."

Captain Simpson said landing the Predator is challenging.

"The aircraft is affected by wind more than any other aircraft and visibility is limited to what you see in front of the camera," he said.

The aircraft is equipped with a color nose camera, a day variable aperture TV camera, a variable aperture infrared camera and synthetic aperture radar for looking through smoke, clouds or haze. The cameras produce full motion video and still frame

radar images.

"Among other things, I maintain the Multispectral Targeting System ball, which is like the eye of the Predator," said Senior Airman Christopher Sipes, 46th AMU avionics journeyman. "The eye provides infrared surveillance video, which helps ground forces see what's going on. It also has Hellfire missile laser targeting, laser designator and a laser illuminator in a single sensor package. The aircraft can also launch two laser-guided

See PREDATOR page 5

Earn more money while deployed

By Army Capt.
Patrick Sampsell

208th Finance Battalion

AFGHANISTAN — The U.S. government offers any servicemember serving in a designated combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or directly supporting of a combat zone, an opportunity to participate in a savings program that is free, guaranteed and fully backed by the U.S. government.

Whether active duty, Reserve or National Guard, servicemembers are eligible to contribute up to \$10,000 to a no-risk, no-fee, program that pays 10 percent annual interest, compounded quarterly. Moreover, they can leave funds in the program for up to 90 days after redeployment and the account will continue to draw interest.

Servicemembers are able to contribute to their Savings Deposit Program account on a monthly basis. The maximum amount per month is limited to the individual's unallotted income, the amount remaining after the collection and payment of all existing taxes, allotments and debt obligations.

Deposits to the program made on or before the 10th of the month accrue interest from the 1st of the month. Deposits made after the 10th of the month accrue interest from the first day of the following month.

Servicemembers are able to make deposits into the program after serving 30 consecutive days in a designated area or by spending one day per month for three consecutive months in a designated area.

To establish an account, visit

the local finance office with a current Leave and Earnings Statement and make a deposit by cash, check or money order.

With an appropriate power of attorney, outside parties can make deposits into the program, as long as it does not exceed the servicemember's monthly disposable income.

There are limitations on when the money may be withdrawn. It is intended that deposits made remain in the program at least until the person redeploy or moves.

Withdrawals are limited during the time within the designated area to those necessary to preserve the health or welfare of the servicemember or their family.

Additionally, any interest accruing in the account which causes the account to exceed

\$10,000 may be withdrawn quarterly. Money must be withdrawn within 90 days of exiting the designated area. Interest will be accrued for as long as 90 days after redeployment.

After 90 days, the money no longer accrues interest, but no penalties will be assessed either. The balance of the account will automatically be sent to the address provided by the account holder. To stop the allotment for the program, people must submit a DD Form 2558 upon arrival at home station.

The program provides a safe, no risk opportunity for servicemembers to earn a considerable interest benefit while serving in a combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or while participating in certain contingency operations directly supporting a combat zone.

Balad Airmen promoted in May

The following Balad Airmen will be promoted during May.

Promoting to Captain

- David Garcia, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group

Promoting to Senior Master Sgt.

- Terrance Mack, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Promoting to Master Sgt.

- Robert Evans, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group
- Billie Newhard, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron
- Gary Snowden, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Promoting to Tech. Sgt.

- Brian Barbour, 34th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Christopher Baucom, 727th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Albert Cayabyab, 332nd ELRS
- John Fallen, 732nd EMSG
- Joshua Habetler, 64th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- Julie Martinez, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron
- Michael McComas, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
- Darian Powell, 332nd ELRS

Promoting to Staff Sgt.

- Melanie Aylward, 732nd EMSG
- Daniel Durkee, 332nd EMDSS
- Jaclyn Hatchett, 332nd EMDG
- Kenny Hunter, 732nd ECES
- Crystal Jones, 332nd EMDG
- Manuel Joson, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron
- Bryan Malcolm, 732nd ECES
- Julio Morales, 732nd ECES
- Stanley Sutton, 332nd EMXS
- Amanda Tuttle, 332nd EMDSS
- Brian Wiensch, 727th Expeditionary Aircraft Control Squadron

Promoting to Senior Airman

- Antonio Aquino, 727th EACS
- Matthew Bowman, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron
- Latoria Glover, 332nd ECES
- Jonathan Hardig, 332nd ECS

- Trevor Harlow, 332nd EMSG
- Jeremy Ketchum, 332nd ECS
- Sean Larkin, 332nd ESFS
- Dayson Lee, 727th EACS
- Maurice Lloyd, 332nd ECES
- Rick Nance, 46th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Joshua Reynolds, 727th EACS
- Isaiah Schaff, 332nd ECES
- Jimmie Stroud, 34th EAMXS

Promoting to Airman 1st Class

- Maria Coon, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
- Renee Fleming, 332nd ESFS
- Adam Foret, 332nd ECES
- Roderick Groomster, 332nd ESFS
- Aaron Hernandez, 332nd ESFS
- John Manley, 332nd ESFS
- Stephen Mixon
- Manuel Rodriguez, 332nd ESFS
- Sen Chow Saechao, 332nd ESFS
- Tim Wiersma, 332nd ESFS

Promoting to Airman

- Matthew Gillette, 332nd ESFS

Security forces perform unique mission

By Staff Sgt.
Troy Simchak

732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group Det. 1

Due to a security forces manpower shortage, the Army helped provide security at Air Force bases around the world.

One Balad detachment in Mosul, Iraq, is repaying the security debt owed to the Army by filling the role of Army military police.

The 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group Det. 1 is an Air Force unit providing law and order on Army installations in Iraq.

"This unit has run into things most security forces members don't experience at an Air Force base for years," said Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Brooks, 732nd EMSG Det. 1 Phoenix Flight patrolman deployed from RAF Lakenheath, England. "We enforce General Order 1A and have handled cases involving alcohol use, weapons, sexual assault, pornography, larceny and trafficking drugs."

Before arriving at Mosul, the 48-member team arrived at Balad to be trained by the Army on security.

After training, they arrived at Mosul, formed the detachment, and Army military police trained them on the use of Army communications equipment, police forms and reports and other aspects of the Army mission.

"We wanted to blend right in to their way of doing things so there were no communication breakdowns and to make sure we had continuity," said 1st Lt. Michael Small, 732nd EMSG Det. 1 operations officer deployed from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. "The Army was outstanding at getting us spun



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Hammond

732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group Det. 1 perform a customs inspection for an Army unit rotating out of Iraq. The Air Force detachment is providing law and order and enforcing customs laws on an Army installation.

up on what we needed to know in order to run the mission effectively."

The detachment also has a customs mission to ensure servicemembers redeploying do not bring any prohibited items out of the Area of Responsibility. They enforce military customs laws, U.S. customs laws and regulations, and U.S. agricultural guidelines.

"The mission we're doing is far from what most security forces members are used to performing in a deployed environment," said Tech. Sgt. Wayne Moses, 732nd EMSG Det. 1 Raptor Flight chief from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. "Usually we deploy and take up a base defense role, but not here. The Army has the wire

covered and we know it's secured, while we have inside the wire; working with Army force protection and the law enforcement side. It's very strange to take up just the law and order portion and not the rest."

Working with Army force protection and Navy military working dog teams, the detachment was recently able to conduct a contraband sweep in vendor shops on the installation. They uncovered vast quantities of unauthorized cell phones, weapons, pornographic materials and alcohol.

"Working to keep contraband items off the installations is an important part of what we do," said SSgt. Tedd Yost, 732nd EMSG Det. 1 investigations

NCOIC deployed from Hanscom AFB, Mass.

The detachment is scheduled to be replaced in July, but could stay longer.

"If we stay longer, the dedicated men and women of this unique unit will press on and follow the first general order of Air Force Security Forces: I will take charge of my post and protect personnel and property under my control until properly relieved," said Maj. Michael Gimbrone, 732nd EMSG Det. 1 commander deployed from Hanscom AFB, Mass. "Until we're relieved we will remain on the job enforcing the law and keeping the order to ensure the safety of all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines."

Balad runway gets facelift

Airfield management, Red Horse engineers work to finish projects

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Airfield managers and civil engineers joined forces recently to give Runway 14 on the base flightline a much needed facelift.

The runway had a 200-by-100-foot dip that went about a foot and a half deep and rendered it unsafe for aircraft to take-off from and land on. The problem was so bad the team had to close that portion of the runway – called “displacing the threshold” – until they could fix it.

“This was the one area of the runway we really had to make our top priority,” said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Popp, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron airfield management chief. “The F-16s couldn’t even use that end of the runway because it was so bad.”

Staff Sgt. Travis Kehoe of the 332nd OSS airfield management section said the dip in the runway resulted from the high volume of heavy aircraft landing on that portion of it.

“The weight from aircraft forces the



Photo By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

Staff Sgt. Larry Hays of the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group uses a roller to compact dirt at the Runway 14 construction site.

concrete slabs to flex, allowing water underneath the pavement to wear away the

foundation material; this caused the dip in the runway,” he said. “Water then collects in the dip, causing a hazard for aircraft landing and could cause hydroplaning. If left alone, the concrete would eventually give away as an aircraft passes, and that aircraft could get stuck in the dip.”

By displacing the threshold on the runway, the team ultimately shortened the Balad runway by 3,000 feet, going from 11,500 feet to 8,500 feet.

“The big challenge with displacing the threshold is that it needs to be finished in one day’s time so as not to hinder our flying mission,” said Sergeant Popp. “Our team had just about six hours to put up new signs and markings, lights and a mobile arresting system while the airfield was shut down.”

The sergeant said that without the hard work of several key civil engineer shops to include the structure, exterior electric and power production shops, the project would not have been possible.

“The CE squad was incredible,” said Sergeant Popp. “Everybody really stepped up and not only did their jobs well, but got the project done in just six hours.”

The sergeant added that he was also impressed with the hard work the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group civil engineers have been doing with the actual reconstruction of the damaged runway.

“They are working hard and making great progress in the project,” he said. “We couldn’t ask for a better team of Airmen.”

Sergeant Popp estimates the entire runway, all 11,500 feet of it, should be back up and running by July 1.



Photo By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

Staff Sgt. Travis Kehoe, left, and Airman 1st Class Anne Andrade, right, both of the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Airfield Management flight, talk with Tech. Sgt. Alfredo Trejo of the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group at the Runway 14 construction site. Sergeant Trejo is the construction site NCO in charge.

PREDATOR
Continued
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Hellfire anti-tank missiles within a moment's notice."

The Predators communications equipment helps keep the mission going by providing communications between the ground station and the aircraft when it is beyond the line-of-sight.

"The ground control station is like a huge remote control," Airman Dounglomchan said. "The equipment I maintain is the essential link between the pilots and the plane itself."

The Predator also can pinpoint a target for ground troops.

"It's the eyes in the sky for all servicemembers," said Senior Airman Chris Curran, 46th AMU crew chief.



Photos by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Senior Airman Chris Curran, 46th AMU crew chief, removes a Predator's upper engine cowl for a post-flight inspection.



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Above: Capt. Ryan Simpson, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, pilots a Predator from the ground control station.

Right: Senior Airman Christopher Sipes, 46th AMU avionics journeyman, inspects the Predator's multi-spectral targeting system ball.



A rich heritage of religious freedom and respect

By Chaplain (Maj. Gen.)
Charles Baldwin

Air Force Chaplain Service

WASHINGTON – On Sept. 23, 2001, 25,000 people gathered at Yankee Stadium for “A Prayer for America,” honoring those who lost their lives in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Jewish, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Hindu, Protestant, Sikh and Greek Orthodox clergy offered prayers.

The prayer service was described as representing the best in America and unprecedented in its interfaith spirit. One commentator even called the diverse gathering of religious expressions a miracle. It was a profound and beautiful response to the hatred and intolerance of the terrorists.

Such “miracles” take place at Air Force chapels throughout the world every day. A spirit of unity and cooperation is seen, not only in the sharing of sacred space by many faith communities, but also in the love and respect we show for one another.

For me, one of the absolute joys of being an Air Force chaplain is this privilege of serving such a diverse community.

The Air Force Chaplain Service is devoted to serving the religious needs of all Airmen and their families. We are committed to serving the one who is different with the same passion as the one from our own faith group. This is something that is a wonder to the world! Yet, it is true. This is the culture of the Airman.

There are countless inspiring stories of chaplains and chaplain assistants modeling this beautiful spirit and helping to shape this culture of respect within the Air Force.

Recently, in the Middle East, two Protestant chaplains rallied parishioners to join several Jewish Airmen in order to have a Seder service. The presence of the Protestant Airmen at the supper made possible the Passover celebration for the Jewish Airmen. It was a moment neither group will ever forget. This is the culture of the Airman.

Chaplains come from many faith communities. We are as diverse as the Air Force. How is it possible that we work together when our beliefs are so different?

We rally around three great watchwords. These words, inscribed on our Chaplain Service seal, unite us and give focus to our

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A spirit of unity and cooperation is seen, not only in the sharing of sacred space by many faith communities, but also in the love and respect we show for one another.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.)
Charles Baldwin
Air Force Chaplain Service

”

service. They are freedom, faith and ministry. What a calling is ours!

Faithfully representing our faith communities, we cooperate without compromise. And the reason we do this? It's for the Airmen! We are here to ensure their right to the free exercise of religion. That's the “freedom” and “faith” part of the seal. “Ministry” captures our commitment to care for the needs of the Airmen everywhere they serve.

There are several documents on religious freedom that are important to military members. They are Department of Defense Directive 1300.17, Accommodation of Religious Practices Within the Military Services, and Air Force Instruction 36-2706 Chapter 8, Accommodation of Religious Practices for the Air Force.

These documents affirm that the free exercise of religion is a basic principle of our nation. They make it policy for commanders to approve accommodation of religious practices when accommodation will not have an adverse effect on military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline.

Chaplains are here to help commanders understand the issues in our complex, religiously diverse Air Force community and help Airmen as they seek to practice their faith while serving in the military and the federal workplace.

Clearly, there is the expectation that Airmen will respect each other and accommodate one another in the practice of their faith.

Through the years, I have heard of indi-

viduals who do not understand or appreciate this basic principle of who we are.

When one fails to respect the individual rights of others, he or she acts contrary to the cultural and constitutional framework in America which protects our religious freedoms. Lack of respect and tolerance for the rights of others to believe as they choose hurts each of us and jeopardizes good order, discipline, unit cohesion and our ability to accomplish the missions with which our nation entrusts us. There is no place in our Air Force for disrespectful names, slurs and jokes that make someone feel alienated from the team.

In response to the need to re-enforce this message, the Chaplain Service has introduced Respecting the Spiritual Values of all People program. We offered it first at the Air Force Academy and will follow at other bases.

This program encourages people to confidently and authentically live out their own faith commitments and deeply respect others whose faith is different from their own. This is the culture of the Airman.

We didn't just recently begin to value religious freedom and individual rights. This is a central part of our rich American heritage. It has been re-enforced through the years with countless acts of courage and sacrifice both large and small.

One of the most memorable examples of this American character happened Feb. 3, 1943, aboard the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester*. An enemy torpedo hit the ship. Four chaplains (two Protestant ministers, a Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest) gave up their life preservers, and any chance of survival, so that others could live. The four chaplains died together while they clung to each other and prayed. The survivors, of all faiths, found great strength in the chaplains' prayers and courage, and they never forgot the sacrifice or the spirit of the four chaplains.

Today, in that same spirit, Air Force chaplains and chaplain assistants provide an example of cooperation without compromise, freedom to live out our faith with respect for all and sacrificial service to others. So, too, may we all serve honorably. This is the culture of the Airman.



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

Flea and tick collars

Flea and tick collars are not made for human use.

Wearing flea and tick collars is harmful to health and has never been proven to work.

Numerous national news media reports indicate that well-meaning citizens or citizen groups are sending animal flea and tick collars to troops in the Area of Responsibility. They suggest these collars can be worn by servicemembers for protection from bug bites.

Flea and tick collars contain a wide variety of pesticides, which can be absorbed into the skin in toxic amounts. They may cause severe skin reactions and have the potential to cause systemic poisoning.

Flea and tick collars are not as hazardous for dogs and cats because these animals do not sweat.

Sweat secreted through pores from glands in people's skin can leach out pesticides and possibly other chemical ingredients in the collars.

This dose of pesticides can result in direct skin damage, or possible internal damage due to absorption of pesticides back through the skin's pores.

Wearing collars on the outside of pants, socks or boots is not a safe practice because sweat can draw pesticides from the collars right through fabrics.

For optimum protection from disease-bearing and nuisance insects and other arthropods, servicemembers should treat their uniform with permethrin before putting it on, apply a thin coat of DEET insect repellent lotion to exposed skin, keep uniform sleeves down and wear the uniform properly.

Permethrin on uniform fabric kills most insects upon contact and is the most important means of protection.

For more information, call Public Health at 443-7304.

Meet your neighbor



Senior Airman Danny Lopez

Home station: Nellis AFB, Nev.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Hobbies: I enjoy reading and dancing.

How do you contribute to the mission? As an escort, I help ensure nationals are able to do their jobs.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? I enjoy going to the pool on my days off.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I miss my dog, Chico.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant:

All Air Force members will wear reflective belts around the waist during hours of darkness or low visibility regardless of uniform worn.

Belts will be worn with the DCU, flight suit, individual body armor and PT gear.

Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital
11 a.m. • Contemporary Worship – Town Hall
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship – H-6 Chapel

Roman Catholic

Daily:

When Catholic Chaplain is available, Mass • 7:30 p.m. – H-6 Chapel
Confessions – Offered prior to Daily Mass

Saturdays:

7:30 p.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel
3:30 p.m. • Mass – 626 Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6 Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6 Chapel

Fellowship and Study

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers Fellowship – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Band of Brothers Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Catholic Study – Chapel Fellowship room

Tuesdays:

7:30 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life – Chapel Fellowship room

Wednesdays:

7 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life – Chapel Fellowship room

Thursdays:

7 p.m. • Latter Day Saints Study Group – Chapel Fellowship room

Fridays:

7:30 p.m. • Women's Bible Study – Hospital

Saturdays:

5 p.m. • Experiencing God – Chapel Fellowship room

Know what this is?

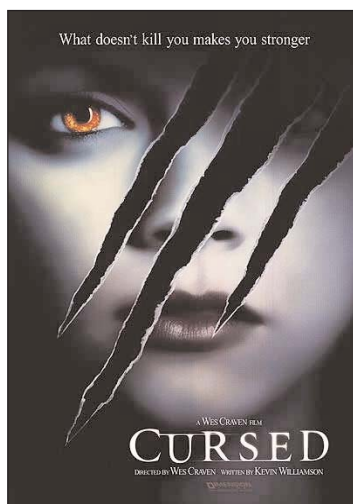


Photo by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of chain links was first identified by Airman 1st Class Sharon Holloway, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

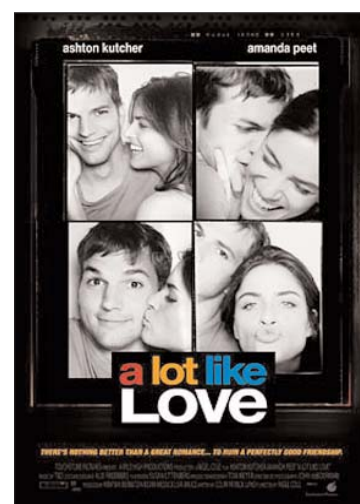
Sustainer Movie Schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today, May 6
3 p.m. - Cursed
6 p.m. - A lot Like Love
9 p.m. - Cursed
Saturday, May 7
3 p.m. - Man of the House
6 p.m. - Cursed
9 p.m. - A lot Like Love
Sunday, May 8
3 p.m. - Cursed
6 p.m. - The Amityville Horror
9 p.m. - A lot Like Love
Monday, May 9
3 p.m. - Constantine

6 p.m. - A lot Like Love
9 p.m. - Man of the House
Tuesday, May 10
3 p.m. - Because of Winn Dixie
6 p.m. - Hitch
9 p.m. - Cursed
Wednesday, May 11
3 p.m. - Man of the House
6 p.m. - The Pacifier
9 p.m. - Boogeyman
Thursday, May 12
3 p.m. - The Pacifier
6 p.m. - Cursed
9 p.m. - A lot Like Love



332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

Col. Blair Hansen
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Maj. William Manley
Public Affairs Chief
Master Sgt. Jim Randall
Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
Web Administrator
Senior Airman Colleen Wronke
Red Tail Flyer Editor

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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

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